



Operation Desert Strike



Special Deployment Issue, Volume 6

FIRST STRIKE REPORT

1-21 Roars Out of the Box

Striker 6 Sends:

The First Team successfully destroyed the NMPF and restored the international order as of 20 April 2001. Hostilities ceased and the 1st Battalion, 21st Field Artillery reoccupied the Dona Ana base camp to begin regeneration activities prior to redeploying to Fort Hood. The First Strike battalion lived up to its name by striking deep and destroying the enemy's artillery, command and control, and maneuver formations with fires triggered by Kiowa warriors pilots from D/1-7 Cav. The relentless pounding of the MLRS rockets and Q-37 acquisitions of NMPF artillery led to the silence of his guns and 1st Cav freedom of maneuver.

So ends the battle and combat activities of Desert Strike 01-07, the first operational deployment of 1-21 FA, the Army's first Divisional MLRS battalion. A lot was riding on the battalion's performance during a time of



dwindling resources and many competing priorities. I am happy to report that First Strike soldiers, ably led by the officers and non-commissioned officers, stepped up to the plate and hit a home run. MG McKiernan and COL Hammond both visited troops, sections and batteries and left with a clear picture of the operation, the battalion's capabilities, and high state of soldier discipline that exists in the battalion. As a result, there will be more

Desert Strike operations. They will be bigger and better. The Division's Deep Operations Cell, Apache Longbows and the 1-7 Cav squadron will maneuver throughout the battle space supported by 1-21 radars and launchers. However next time, we will have 18 launchers as C/2-131 FA, Texas National Guard joins our ranks. They will enable us to service 50% more targets than we can with our two active firing batteries. Expect larger Air Force

and special operations involvement to define the battle space in three dimensions, making it a true joint and combined arms operation. It will be among the most important Division level exercises each year. And you made it happen. It was your professionalism, commitment to excellence, and your willingness to train hard and safe. Most of all, it was the warrior spirit in each of you that led us to a rapid and decisive victory.

--First Strike!!

Thunder's Fury Unleashed

Thunder Battery stood poised and ready to "Get Some" based on the pumeling the Thunder BOC dealt to a NMPF Special Forces team during the first week of the EXEVAL. The Battery was just itching to get into another fist fight during the all-important week in the box. Under the MTP-based, all-knowing, been-there-done-that, I've-never-failed mentorship of 1SG Jay, SSG Barajas has honed a ground force reaction team that will "deal with" any NMPF SF Team that makes the fatal mistake of invading their turf. Barajas uses the following training techniques to ensure his team is lightning quick and highly motivated:

- 1) SSG Hunt as been convinced a cot complete with electronic blanket or a cooler of beer (depending on weather conditions) has been set up in his fighting position.
- 2) PV2 Brisson believes he will be rewarded with an extra MRE for every 3-5 second rush completed.
- 3) PV2 Auberry has been brainwashed to believe reacting to the enemy is not actual work, and therefore he is incredibly eager to do his part.
- 4) LT Wohlgemuth can yell and scream as loud as he wants.
- 5) LT Egan has been trained to use small arms fire, machine guns, and artillery as his cue to wake up.
- 6) PV2 Ramirez and PV2 Dupper understand their role in murdering the NMPF is critical since the sole mission of the NMPF is to destroy every tricked-out Honda Civic in the Republic of Texas.
- 7) PFC Wiliams has rigorously completed 1497 hours of land navigation and map reading courses to ensure he can quickly and decisively get CPT Karr to the right place on the battlefield because CPT Karr has absolutely no sense of direction. In fact, the Department of the Army is still looking for the platoon he lost in 1994.
- 8) PFC Michaelis understands he is critical to ensuring that 1SG Jay doesn't become a friendly fire casualty.
- 9) SGT Palacio, affectionately known within the battery as "Thunder P" has been trained to use his M88 to grind the enemy into the sand.
- 10) SPC Williamson knows the enemy will be paralyzed with fear by any man that has "EGAN" written across his butt with permanent marker.
- 11) SPC Lopez understands how important it is to argue with the OC if the fight doesn't go his way.

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War Correspondent Tackled, Hog-Tied, Pummeled Mercilessly

Screaming, "Sir, you can't take pictures of my radar!" SPC Gable of Charlie Battery burst out of the concertina wire and tackled the world renowned and celebrated war correspondent now writing this article from his infirmary bed.

What followed could have been taken directly from a Jackie Chan movie—with a flurry of lightning punches and whirlwind kicks, Gable left me bruised, battered, and lying defenseless on my camera, trying to protect what remained of my dignity.

Needless to say, I was most surprised at Gable's almost in-human strength, as he yanked my arms behind my back and bound me with 550 cord. Turns out this nightmare had just begun, however. Hog-tied as I was, I could not even mount the feeblest defense as Gable picked me up bodily and assaulted me with all 120 cow pounds of his formidable mass. After tossing me about like a rag doll, Gable kept asking threateningly, "Have you had enough yet?"

Weepingly I nodded yes, yes! but the torture would not cease. Yanking my film from the camera, Gable stood over me and kicked sand in my bruised and bloodied face. When I opened my eyes, I saw a blinding flash of white, and silently offered a prayer of thanks to my maker for delivering me from the fury of Gable's wrath.

As I recover from my wounds safe in my hospital bed, I wonder how many have crossed Gable's path and been so lucky. Readers, thank your lucky stars that I have escaped to live another day and tell the story—but heed my warning. Gable is a destroyer of men and dreams; do not provoke him; do not anger him; and most of all, do NOT take pictures of his radar.

Although this story is entirely false, 1SG Jay told it so well that I could not resist including it here.



12) SSG Johnson and SPC Perez are willing and eager to button up in the back of their 27M vehicle and protect their over-priced repair parts.

13) SSG Watson will stand his ground, drink a Miller Lite and hold up three fingers while he enjoys watching the destruction of those communist, non-NASCAR watching NMPF Pigs

14) SGT Sites is the master of parts requisition. Strategically placed on the perimeter, SGT Sites will immediately be able to look up part numbers with his handy-dandy maintenance smart book.

15) SSG Smith brings a

charming, "We can kick anybody's ass" attitude to the entire reaction team, while working side by side with SSG Barajas. SSG Smith's Cool Breeze attitude is essential to keeping the hot-headed Barajas in check.

16) PV2 McGauvran is tasked to hold SSG Watson's 3X5 foot Dale Earnhardt flag with his left hand while shooting at the enemy with his right.

17) PFC Anderson plays the vital role of serving as a rally point during night operations—his constantly sunburned face glows brighter than any chemlight known to man.

18) SSG Geter is trained to

button up the 1068 faster than Steel Rain breaks equipment.

19) SPC Marn is expertly trained to keep the Thunder OPS and Roving guards on their toes, as he has the special talent of looking like an aggressor every time he returns from taking a dump.

20) PV2 Cohuo—the hardest working soldier in the army who will probably whip the enemy's tail single-handedly and then continue sweeping sand from the TOC for the 10,000th time.

21) PFC Rivers has been trained to move so slowly that the enemy won't be able to detect him (actually this required no training). After the dust clears, Rivers can be counted on to scream "God Bless Texas" at the top of his lungs.

22) SGT Iwandu and PFC Thomas will miss most of the battle while banging on the back of the 1068 for SSG Geter to let them in .

23) CPL Corona will not require any training at all since we do not anticipate any WIA's or KIA's.

Editor's Note:

We apologize for the delay in this publication; OPTEMPO did not allow for rapid production.

Battalion Storms through Remainder of Evaluation

It's been almost two years since the Predators returned from their last deployment which took them to Bosnia as a part of SFOR. Unfortunately, the rest of the battalion could not see the great things they accomplished there. Desert Strike 01-07 was a completely different story. The Predators were fully integrated into our Command and Attack battalion operation. In fact, since Counterfire was our most important Essential Field Artillery Task (EFAT), they were our center of gravity—the key to our success or failure. They proved to our battalion and the DIVARTY why they earned their reputation in Bosnia. CW2 Theobald's extensive knowledge of the Q-37 Firefinder radar enabled him to troubleshoot and repair his radar and thus save the battalion almost \$40,000 in repair parts. As a result, his section was able to enter the fight and acquire enemy artillery for our rockets to destroy. SSG Atoe and SGT Alba provided the NCO Leadership that set the

set the conditions for their section to move, emplace and radiate in support of the Counterfire fight. SGT Estep, an 82C who was a former infantryman, was the section's chief of counter-reconnaissance and security. He trained the section in security operations that resulted in a survivable position and force protection for the division. It also meant that we never lost radar coverage throughout the entire battle.

CW2 Sosa, the counterfire officer, led the TPS fight with the assistance of his NCOIC SSG Thomas. They processed and analyzed the acquired targets to develop the proactive counterfire picture and served as the Predator C2 cell for the radars. Their contribution to the TOC resulted in a phenomenal counterfire battle drill that put rockets on target in less than 2 minutes--sometimes as fast as 45 seconds--using the 'stay hot, shoot fast' launchers.

CPT Isper and 1SG Wyland had the formidable task of leading and

supporting both radar sections and the TPS. They were all over the battlefield setting the conditions for all three sections to accomplish the mission, the key to the Divisional MLRS operation. The Predators are masters of the counterfire fight and made 1-21 FA Command and Attack operations a ready and powerful weapon in the hands of the Division Artillery Commander.

--Predators!

!!!NEWS FLASH!!!

Soldier reportedly meant no disrespect when he told his commander to "Go Fly a Kite!" The misunderstood soldier said later, "It was really windy, and I thought flying a kite sounded like fun—sheesh!" Other soldiers reported a similar lack of humor among their commanders.

OPERATION DESERT STRIKE

Can You Identify this (former) 1-21 Soldier?



A roving reporter discovered this picture of SGT _____ while browsing through MLRS pictures on the Internet. Small Army, huh? The picture was taken at Camp Casey, Korea and did not include a date. Best wishes!

Coming next issue:

- Confused soldier accidentally coins new phrase—'Ignorance is Fort Bliss'
- Motorola stock skyrockets as sales to First Strike Battalion peak; Energizer stock shows similar trend
- Frightened National Guard LT fearfully asks, "Will that be all, MSG Holland?"
- “Stop Stealing my Oranges” by SFC Winfield
- SSG Green, CPL Angle appear on FBI's 10 Most Wanted List—Receive Even More Requests for Ciga-



Monday, 23 April is the last mail pick up until we return to Fort Hood. After Monday, all mail will be returned to sender or returned to your Post Office Box at Fort Hood.

Your Mail is Important!

Fashion Update

Tired of painful irritation from shaving? Always wanted to know what you'd look like with a moustache, but afraid to grow one? Field fashion consultants SFC Zito and SFC Tolentino agree that the only way to go is the field moustache.

"For the first few days, it just looks like your upper lip is dirty," related Tolentino, "but soon enough, you'll have a genuine moustache of your very own. I tried it at the NTC, and immediately I knew it was right for me."

"I don't know much about fashion, but I know that pretty soon, BDMs (Battle Dress Moustaches) will be as commonplace as BDUs. Take my advice—grow yours today. It will make you a new person."

LOST
IN THE
DESERT



A huge thanks to SPC Walker and PFC Rodriguez for doing the impossible—making the First Strike Report even better! -ED